

LESSON 3

MUHAMMAD'S EARLY YEARS

Muhammad (S) now lived with his mother and grandfather. His grandfather, Abd al-Muttalib loved him and showed him great affection. Muhammad (S) reminded him of his dead son, Abdullah.

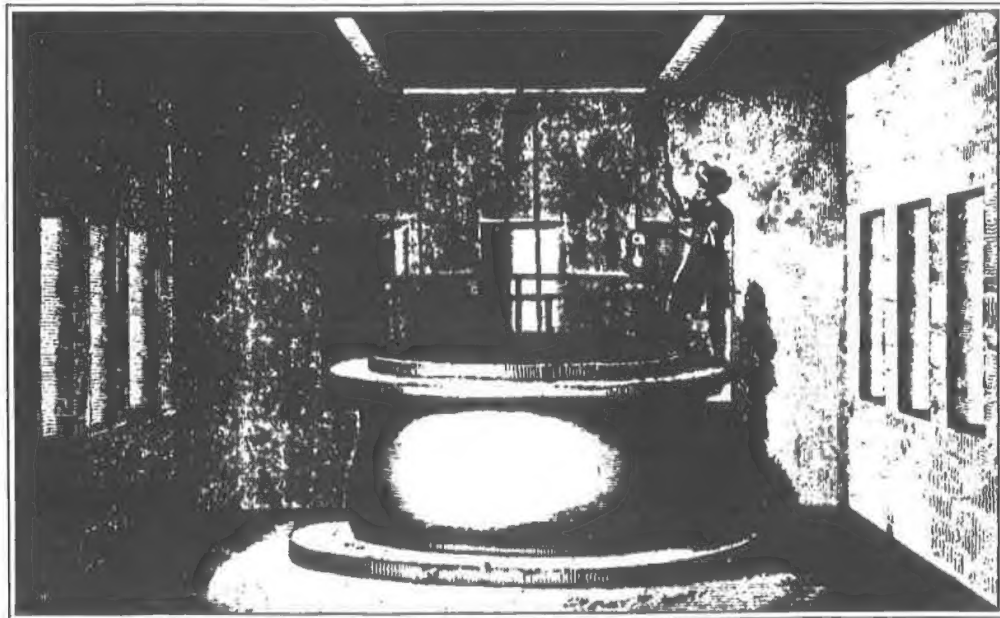
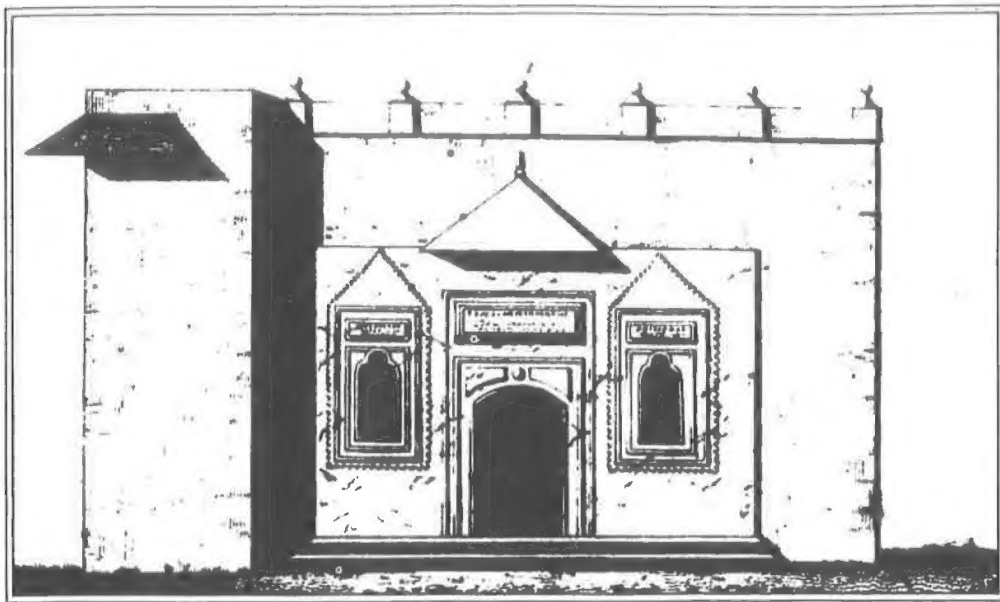
After some time, Muhammad's mother, Aminah took him to the city of Yathrib to meet some relatives and to visit her husband's grave. The city of Yathrib is now known as Madinah. Aminah died on her way back to Makkah. Muhammad (S) was very sad. He was brought back to Makkah by a maid servant.

His grandfather, Abd al-Muttalib took charge of him. Abd al-Muttalib would not leave Muhammad (S) alone even for a short while. Muhammad (S) became greatly attached to him. He became like both father and mother to him. Two years later, Abd al-Muttalib also died.

This left Muhammad (S) sad and lonely once again. Muhammad (S) suffered a lot as a child. It was, perhaps, Allah's way of teaching Muhammad (S) kindness and concern for the orphans, the poor, and the helpless. Allah showed us through the example of Prophet Muhammad's sufferings that Allah's protection is always with the orphans and the helpless.

Muhammad's uncle, Abu Talib, now became his guardian. Abu Talib cared for him just as he was his own child. Muhammad (S) was not like any other child. The Makkan youths wasted their time in fairs and indecent games, but Muhammad(S) worked as a shepherd and gave his earnings to his uncle. The Makkan youths did not mind being naked before others; Muhammad(S) was modest and bashful. Muhammad(S) was different from them in every respect. The evils of the Makkan life did not touch him. He was kind, polite and respectful. Everyone loved him and praised him.

[Muhammad (S) always spoke the truth. As he grew to be a young man, people were impressed by his truthfulness. They called him *al-Sadiq*, the truthful one. They also trusted Muhammad (S). People called him *al-Amin*, the trustworthy one. His truthfulness and trustworthiness became so famous that when someone said *al-Sadiq*, the truthful one, or *al-Amin*, the trustworthrhy one, people would know that he was talking about Muhammad (S).]



The Well of Zamzam (Aly Bey)

At that time very few people in Makkah knew how to read or write. Muhammad's uncle, who was poor, could not send him to a teacher, so Muhammad (S) never learned to read and write. Who could believe then that this illiterate young man would one day become the greatest teacher of mankind.

Muhammad (S) by nature was a peace-loving and reflective person. He did not show any talent for the Arab arts of poetry, speech giving and story telling. Nor was he known as a warrior, or famous for archery and swordsmanship.

As a young man, Muhammad (S) saw the tribal war, the battle of Fijar, though he himself did not fight in the war. It was fought between the tribes of Quraish and Qais. After much bloodshed, at the initiative of some Quraish chiefs, a peace was concluded. It established peace and promised safety of travel, help to the needy, and support for the oppressed.

Muhammad (S) liked the agreement. Later on he remarked, "If someone offers me one hundred precious red camels for this agreement I will not accept them. I am still ready to help anyone under the terms of the agreement." Red camels were very expensive and highly prized in Arabia.

Muhammad (S) grew up a handsome, healthy young man, respected by everyone. He spoke politely, respected his elders, showed love to children, and helped widows, orphans, and the poor. He did not waste his time in useless games. He did not go to parties. Like other Arabs, he never drank or gambled or walked naked around Kabah. He never worshipped idols. Though Muhammad (S) was an orphan, Allah protected him from the evil ways of the young men of Makkah.

After Muhammad (S) became Rasulullah, Allah reminded him of the hardships of his childhood and youth and promised a better future for him:

For you the future will be better than the past life.

In the future your Lord will give you so much, you will be well pleased.

Did Allah not find you an orphan and gave you shelter?

Did Allah not find you searching for truth and guide you?

Did Allah not find you poor and make you rich?

Therefore, do not oppress the orphan.

Therefore, do not drive away the beggar.

But proclaim the bounties of your Lord.

al-Duha 94:4-11

Points of review:

1. Muhammad (S) lost his mother and grandfather at a young age. His uncle, Abu Talib, raised him.
2. Muhammad (S) was known as *al-Sadiq* and *al-Amin*.
3. Muhammad (S) liked and valued the peace agreement.

Words to remember:

al-Amin, al-Sadiq, reflective, talent.

Important names:

The Battle of Fijar

Quranic Study:

1. Read Surah *al-Inshirah* 94. It was revealed soon after Surah *al-Duha* and deals with the same theme.